

Amendments to the CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-31 (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for eradicating pests, said apparatus comprising:

a chamber having a first end, a second end, a left wall, a right wall, a ceiling, and a floor, the ceiling and the floor being connected to the ends and walls to define an interior volume of the chamber;

a door that allows ingress to and egress from the interior of the chamber, said door positioned at the first end of the chamber;

a forced-air heater means for directly heating and circulating air in the interior volume of said chamber, said ~~heating means~~ forced-air heater capable of heating said air in said chamber to at least a temperature lethal to pests;

a plenum that communicates with said ~~heating means~~ forced-air heater and said air in the interior volume of said chamber for delivering heated air from the ~~heating means~~ forced-air heater and for more evenly distributing the heated air to said interior volume of the chamber, said plenum being formed either internal or external to the chamber;

~~a means for circulating air in the chamber, said plenum cooperating with said air circulating means for more evenly distributing the air within the interior volume of said chamber;~~
and

a means for returning air from the interior volume of the chamber to said ~~heating means~~ forced-air heater to be heated by the ~~heating means~~ forced-air heater in order to heat-treat any products placed within the chamber to a temperature that is lethal to pests.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said means for returning air comprises a second plenum, said plenum and said second plenum cooperating with each other and with said fan to more evenly circulate the air within the interior of said chamber.

34. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said forced-air heater comprises an indirect-fired heating unit.

35. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said forced-air heater comprises a direct-fired heating unit.

36. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said forced-air heater ~~further means for circulating air~~ comprises a fan assembly utilizing a fan and electric fan motor to assist in circulating the air.

37. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said fan assembly is a duct axial fan.

38. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said floor is reinforced to support the weight of any machinery required to load objects into or unload objects from said chamber.

39. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said forced-air heater has an inlet for allowing the second plenum to communicate with the heater thereby directing air into said forced-air heater and an output for allowing the plenum to communicate with the forced-air heater thereby directing heated air into the interior volume of the chamber to heat said interior volume.

40. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 39 wherein said forced-air heater output and input are connected to said plenum and to said second plenum respectively via ducting.

41. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said chamber is a modified trailer having towing means and a tractor wheel assembly attached to the underside of said chamber for facilitating the movement and transportation of said chamber.

42. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 32 further comprising a sub-ceiling wherein said sub-ceiling along with the existing ceiling forms said plenum internal to the chamber.

43. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 42 wherein said ~~means for heating~~ forced-air heater comprises ~~an~~ make-up air inlet for allowing outside air to be heated for make-up air as required to pressurize the interior of the chamber.

44. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for eradicating pests that utilizes warm air, said apparatus comprising:

a chamber defining an interior volume, said chamber having means for lifting by external machinery, said chamber having first and second ends;

a door or doors that allows ingress and egress from the interior of the chamber, said doors positioned at the first end of the chamber;

~~a means for heating air, the air heating means being~~ forced-air furnace that heats air directly and is capable of raising the temperature of the interior of said chamber to a temperature that is lethal to pests, and

a plenum that communicates with said ~~means for heating~~ forced-air furnace for assisting in distributing air more evenly throughout the interior volume of said chamber, said plenum ~~and wherein said means for heating being~~ forced-air furnace is located either exterior to or remotely from said chamber.

45. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 44 wherein said chamber is a refurbished insulated commercial trailer commonly referred to as a reefer box.

46. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 44 further comprising a plurality of wheels that can be mounted on the underside of said chamber in order to move the chamber and facilitate its portability.

47. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 44 further comprising a trailer having wheels, said trailer adapted to be pulled by a tractor truck and that can accept said chamber in order to move the chamber and facilitate its portability.

48. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 44 wherein said chamber is comprised of a modified existing trailer to which said ~~heating device~~ forced-air furnace is attached.

49. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for eradicating pests, said apparatus comprising:

a chamber having a first end, a second end, a left wall, a right wall, a ceiling, a sub-ceiling, and a floor, the ceiling and sub-ceiling defining a ceiling plenum;

a door that allows ingress to and egress from the interior of the chamber, said door positioned at one end or each end of the chamber;

a forced-air heater that heats air directly having the capacity to heat the air in the interior of said chamber to a desired temperature for a desired period of time, said desired temperature being sufficiently hot ~~of sufficient temperature~~ and said desired period of time being sufficiently long ~~of sufficient period~~ so as to be lethal to pests;

the heater having an inlet and an outlet, the outlet of said heater connected directly to said chamber;

said forced-air heater including means for circulating air ~~having an inlet and an outlet, the outlet of said circulating air means connected to the inlet of said heater, and the inlet of said circulating air means connected to said ceiling plenum, said ceiling plenum communicating with the interior of the chamber to define a continuous volume for allowing air to be moved by the circulating means through the forced-air heater, into the interior of the chamber, through the ceiling plenum and back to the forced-air heater circulating means, said means for circulating, said heating means and said ceiling plenum communicating with each other in order to more evenly heat the interior of said chamber.~~

50. (Canceled).

51. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim ~~49~~ 52 further comprising a control means for controlling the operation of said heater and said air circulating means so that when a desired temperature and time period are entered into the control means the heater and air circulating means working together draw air from the chamber into said ceiling plenum and eventually into said air circulating means, said drawn air is then pushed into said heater where it

is heated to a predetermined temperature, the heated air then being directed into the floor plenum through the perforated floor and into the chamber, said control means ensuring that the air circulating means and heater operate at least intermittently for the desired period of time in order to keep the air within said chamber and any products placed within the chamber at the desired temperature.

52. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 49 further comprising a primary floor spaced apart from and above the floor of said chamber in order to define a floor plenum, the primary floor comprising a plurality of sections having perforations, said perforations being sized, shaped and spaced in order to communicate with said means for circulating, said heating means and said ceiling plenum to further improve and distribute heat evenly within the interior of said chamber.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said desired temperature is 56 degrees celsius (156.8 degrees fahrenheit) and said desired period of time is at least thirty minutes.